

AST Garmisch SAFETY GRAM 01-1

MOTORPOOL-FIRE

Recently a Government Owned Vehicle (GOV) caught fire during the cool down period after welding work had been performed on the battery compartment. The fire resulted in in the GOV being totally burned out.

ISSUES

The fire was first noticed when the flashover occurred. Personnel was able to extinguish the fire with on hand fire extinguishers.

The following recommendations are provided to assist leaders, supervisors, service members and civilian personnel in preventing fires during and after welding or cutting operations (OSHA 29 CFR 1910.252)

- 1. **Leaders/supervisors** must ensure that Standing Operating Procedures (SOPs) are available to all personnel.
- 2. **Personnel** will ensure that, before welding or cutting is commenced on any object, the surrounding area is checked. If the object to be welded or cut cannot readily be moved, all movable fire hazards in the vicinity shall be taken to a safe place. If the object to be welded or cut can not be moved and if all the fire hazards can not be removed, then guards shall be used to confine the heat, sparks, and slag, and to protect the immovable fire hazards. If the above requirements cannot be followed, then welding and cutting shall not be performed. A proper fire extinguisher must be on hand at any time when welding or cutting work is performed. More details can be found in OSHA 29 CFR 1910.252.